

VZCZCXRO1053
PP RUEHGR
DE RUEHWN #1718 2692039
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 262039Z SEP 06
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3389
INFO RUEHGR/AMEMBASSY GRENADA 0184

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 001718

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SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR HOGAN TO TRAVEL TO BARBADOS,
SAINT LUCIA, GRENADA AND DOMINICA

REF: STATE 159413

1. Embassy Bridgetown welcomes and grants country clearance to Patrick Hogan, Peace Corps Associate Director for Safety and Security, to travel to Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, and Dominica a/o October 1, 2006 and to depart a/o October 12, 2006. The purpose of this visit is to accompany Peace Corps Safety and Security Officer Neil Shouba to St. Lucia, Grenada, Carriacou, and Dominica to do a routine review of the safety and security programs.

2. Post understands that Peace Corps Eastern Caribbean based in St. Lucia will arrange for Mr. Hogan's travel and logistical support.

3. Entry requirements: A valid U.S. passport is required to enter Saint Lucia. No visa is required if your stay is under six months, including those travelers arriving with diplomatic or official passports. For further information, travelers may contact the Embassy of Saint Lucia, 3216 New Mexico Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, telephone (202) 364-6792.

4. Departure tax for St. Lucia is XCD\$45.00 or USD\$17.00.

5. The following is general information pertaining to transportation, security, and health considerations throughout the Eastern Caribbean:

Airports and Transportation

Eastern Caribbean nations are visitor-friendly and do not require visas for U.S. citizens traveling on valid U.S. passports with return tickets. Commercial taxis are readily available and reasonably priced at airports throughout the region.

Security

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended, especially at night. Be vigilant when using public telephones or ATM machines near roadsides or quiet areas. As in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel burglaries are not uncommon and all valuables should be locked in room safes if possible.

Health Information

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent the major health threat is dengue fever, transmitted by mosquito. Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should

therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is also a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e., tetanus, diphtheria, and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

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